

REMARKS

The present application included pending claims 1-7. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, while claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. New claims 8-16 have been added. No fee is believed due with respect to these new claims because the total number of claims in the present application does not exceed 20, nor does the total number of independent claims exceed 3.

The Examiner objected to claim 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. The Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the limitations recited in previously pending claim 4. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for not having antecedent basis for the gradient terms. In light of the amendment to claim 1, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this claim rejection.

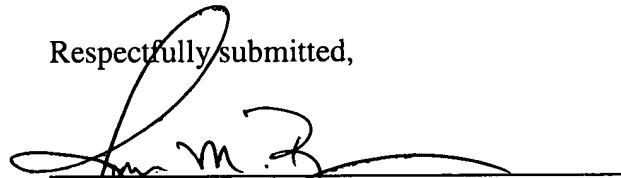
The Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 8-16 should be in condition for allowance, particularly in view of the Examiner's reasons for allowance.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims of the present application should be allowable at least for the reasons discussed above. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below. No fee is believed due with respect

to this Amendment. The Commissioner, however, is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to Account No. 07-0845.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 4, 2005



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